

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9471

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

FBIS OKINAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT PROP CH

SUBJECT: FIRST CURRENT CAMPAIGN EDITORIAL SINGLES OUT TENG:
PREACHES MODERATION

REF: HONG KONG 2515

1. A MAJOR EDITORIAL IN PEOPLE'S DAILY (PD) TODAY, THE FIRST
ONE SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED TO THE ANTI-RIGHTIST CAMPAIGN,
GIVE THE OFFICIAL STAMP OF APPROVAL TO ATTACKS ON TENG
HSIAO-PING WHILE AT THE SAME TIME URGING MODERATION TAKING
ITS TITLE "REVERSING VERDICTS HAS NOT WON THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS"
FROM A NEW MAO QUOTE, THE EDITORIAL'S THEME IS THAT TENG AND
HIS FOLLOWERS HAVE LOST POPULAR SUPPORT AND ARE NOT ISOLATED.

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2. FOLLOWING THE PRACTICE OF RECENT PD ARTICLES, THE EDITORIAL SINGLES OUT "THAT CAPITALIST ROADERS" AND IDENTIFIES HIM AS A FOLLOWER OF LIU SHAO-CHI WHO PRETENDED TO REPENT AFTER THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. IT REPEATS AN EARLIER CHARGE THAT SUCH PEOPLE "HAVE NEVER BEEN MARXISTS" (REFTEL). NO SPECIFIC CHARGES OF RECENT MISBEHAVIOR ARE LAID AT HIS DOOR, HOWEVER. INSTEAD, CAPITALIST ROADERS IN GENERAL ARE ACCUSED OF THE NORMAL LITANY OF ANTI-CULTURAL REVOLUTION ACTS. PERHAPS QUITE SIGNIFICANTLY, THE RECENT CHARGE THAT THEY HAVE SPLIT THE PARTY CENTER IS NOT MENTIONED.

3. THE EDITORIAL, IN FACT, CALLS FOR A VERY CONTROLLED HANDLING OF THE CRITICISM CAMPAIGN. READERS ARE REMINDED OF A NOW RARELY MENTIONED MAO INJUNCTION TO "HELP MORE PEOPLE BY EDUCATING THEM AND NARROW THE TARGET OF ATTACK" AS WELL AS TO "CURE THE SICKNESS, SAVE THE PATIENT." CRITICISM ACTIVITIES ARE TO BE ORGANIZED UNDER PARTY LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS. WHILE CADRES ARE URGED TO RELY ON THE MASSES AND HAVE FAITH IN THEM, THEY ARE REMINDED THAT FIGHTING GROUPS AND EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE GROUPS ARE FORBIDDEN. THE EDITORIAL ALSO GOES OUT OF ITS WAY TO STRESS THAT THE CAMPAIGN SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO GREATER STABILITY AND UNITY.

4. THE EDITORIAL DOES NOT SPECIFY THE ULTIMATE FATE OF TENG HSIAO-PING. IT IS HIS REVISIONIST LINE THAT IS TO BE CRITICIZED, NOT HIM AS A PERSON. NEVERTHELESS, IMPLICITY INCLUDING HIM AMONG "NON-MARXISTS" DOES OPEN THE ROAD TO TAKING AWAY HIS TOP POSITIONS. IN A CLEAR SIGN OF CONCILIATION, HOWEVER, OTHER "LEADING CADRES" WHO HAVE MADE MISTAKES" ARE TO BE ASSISTED IN CHANGING THEIR ATTITUDE AND WELCOMED AS THEY FIND THE RIGHT PATH. ALL IN ALL, THE EDITORIAL APPEARS TO BE A "GO SLOW" SIGN AND THE clearest signal thus far that the campaign will be kept under control.

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